Review of Negro

Immigrants on South's Farms

Mont-Adv 1-22-12

Although more than four-fifths of our recent immigrants were farmers or farm laborers in their native countries, comparatively few have entered agricultural pursuits in the United States, says a Washington article in The Chattanooga Tradesman. The great majority have become wage earners in mines and factories. Those who have become farmers have done so principally as members of communities established through philanthropic motives or promoted by land companies. Only a small number of Southern and Eastern Europeans have purchased land and have gone into farming on an independent basis.

The reason for this condition of affairs is not difficult to find. In the first place, the principal object of the Southern and Eastern European immigrant in coming to the United States has been to earn as much as possible within a short period of time, and then to return to his native land. Consequently he has had no permanent interest in the country, and does not wish to acquire land. Furthermore, even if the recent immigrant should wish to become a farmer, it would be practically impossible, for the reason that the larger number are in necessitous condition and have very little money when they reach their destination in this country. Still another factor of very great importance is that the recent immigrant, as a rule, cannot speak English, and he must, therefore, go to urban or industrial communities where his countrymen are living. Inability to speak English also accounts for the fact that most of the farming by recent immigrants is done on a community basis. A group of Southern and Eastern Europeans acquire land together, and the leader, who usually can speak English, acts as the agent of the other members of the enterprise.

Characteristics of Recent Immigrant Farmers.

The national government recently made an exhaustive study of the Southern and Eastern Europeans immigrant in the territory east of the Rocky Mountains. The statistical part of the report is based upon original information secured from 875 households representing a total of 5,017 persons. Of this total number of persons about one-fifth had been in this country less than five years and two-fifths less than ten years. About one-half of the Hebrews, North Italian, Lithuanian and Polish farmers were of a residence under ten years. Slightly more than four-fifths of all the male immigrants who were twenty years of age or over were married. Of the immigrant farmers who were qualified by age and residence to become citizens, only 51 per cent were fully naturalized, and 17 per cent had signified their intention of becoming citizens by taking out first papers of naturalization. About 85 per cent of the immigrant men and women studied had been farmers or farm laborers in their home countries, and consequently had some training and experience for the occupation in which they were engaged in the United States. Of the total number of farmers of foreign birth, 78 per cent could not speak English. About one-fourth of the immigrant farmers and their households were illiterate, or not able to read in any language. Of the children, 6 and under 16 years of age in the households of the recent immigrant farmers, 20 per cent were at home, 78 per cent attended school and 2 per cent were at home outside the home. The Hebrew families had the highest percentage of children at school, and the North Italians the lowest.

Practically the only Southern and Eastern European farmers within the borders of Virginia consist of a small settlement of Bohemians, near Petersburg and Disputanta. Bohemians, as well as Poles and Italians, however, are found in considerable numbers in other Southern States. The latter race is especially important because of its recent arrival and the large number of its representatives.

Italian Immigration.

Italian immigration to rural districts in the Southern States has practically taken place during the past twenty years. In Texas, at Bryan, in Brazos County, is located the largest Italian agricultural colony in the South, numbering 1,700 persons. Its origin dates back to 1868. The Italian colony at Sunnyside, Ark., is in the "Black Belt," from which several smaller farm colonies throughout the Mississippi Valley and elsewhere can trace their origin.

Italian farming in the South covers a wide range of products, widely diversified soils and climatic conditions, several forms of land tenure, and various systems of culture. The North Italians among the mountains of Western North Carolina practice a self-sufficient diversified agriculture. In Southeastern Louisiana and in the coastal plain belt of Alabama the South Italian truckers and small fruit growers are doing exceptionally well on the light sand soils. In the Mississippi delta, both North and South, Italian cotton tenants are showing the native cotton growers of how much value careful cultivation, kitchen gardens and small store accounts may be to the cotton "share hand" and tenant. In the Ozark Mountains, in Arkansas, Italians have taken up new land, planted orchards and become successful apple and peach growers. At Sunnyside, Ark., where there is a large Italian colony, all seem content to rent land and remain tenants indefinitely. At Knobview, Mo., and Tontitown, Ark., it is the one ambition of every man to become a land owner and an independent farmer.

Small Farmers.

Nearly all the Italians are small farmers. Although they have engaged in diverse forms of agriculture, very few have undertaken any agricultural enterprise that requires a large outlay of capital, either for permanent improvements or for tools, machinery or livestock. There are no extensive rice growers, for example, and no independent sugar cane planters. Truck crops, cotton and small fruits require little capital equipment and a great deal of hand labor. The necessary investment in land is small. One may become a cotton "cropper" with practically no capital. Where the climate is healthful, the Italians have prospered; in fact, in many cases they have been able to surpass their neighbors because they exercise extreme thrift and indefatigable industry. They have been imitators rather than originators, of agricultural methods. Very few innovations, either in crops, method of culture, or improved machinery, can be credited to the Italians.

Perhaps one-half of the Italian farmers in the South came directly from Italy to Southern rural districts, and were first employed as farm laborers or lumbermen, or were tenant farmers.

The large per centage of Sicilians or South Italians in the South is notable. Probably more than four-fifths of the rural Italians in Louisiana are Sicilians. The nearly 2,000 Italians at Bryan, Tex., are Sicilians, and several other settlements are peopled by immigrants from Southern Italy.

In Place of Negro.

Italian immigration to the South has been, in part, stimulated by the cotton and sugar cane planters, who, dissatisfied with negro labor, alarmed at the increasing scarcity of every sort of farm labor, and desirous of settling acceptable farmers on the immense tracts of improved land, have for years been striving to turn the tide of immigration southward. A number of colonies, notably in Texas and Louisiana, seem to have originated in the purchase of a few acres of land by some Italian farm laborer, who, arriving practically without money at a Southern port of entry, sought employment on a neighboring plantation.

The Italian, so far, has had little effect in displacing the negro farmer or tenant in the South. On account of their efficiency, the Italians are practically assured of as much land as they may wish to cultivate, but their demands have not assumed sufficient proportion to force out the negro. The Italian farm laborer seems to be held in higher esteem in the sugar-producing area of Louisiana than in any other section. As regards the future of the Italian farmer in the South, he seems to have made a permanent place for himself on the Louisiana sugar plantations, and as a truck farmer on the coast, and in the Mississippi Valley. It is certain that many of the present day tenants and farm laborers will purchase land and become independent farmers.

There are no Italian farm colonies in Virginia, but one of the most instructive object lessons relative to the qualifications of farmers of this race is furnished by the North Italian Agricultural community near Valdese, N. C. Valdese is located in the eastern part of Burke County, North Carolina, about six miles east of Morganton, the county seat. It is in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, on the Asheville division of the Southern Railroad, about sixty-eight miles east of Asheville and seventy-three miles west of Salisbury. About fifty North Italian families and from 250 to 300 individuals are at this time living in the colony. Twenty of the families constitute the village of Valdese, and no family lives farther than two miles from the postoffice. The farms of the colonists are small, usually ranging from five to one hundred acres. The principal field crops are corn, wheat, oats and hay. Both Irish and sweet potatoes and grapes for wine-making are grown for home consumption, and sometimes there is a surplus, which is sold. Fruit crops are apples, pears, peaches. All kinds of vegetables suited to the climate are raised for home consumption only.

A Waldensian minister, while traveling through the United States in 93, met an agent of the Morganton Land Improvement Company, a corporation controlling large tracts of mountain lands in the vicinity of Valdese. At this time all the land where the colony now is located was unimproved and heavily timbered. The minister thought this region was particularly adapted to colonization, especially with people from his province who were accustomed to farming on the mountain lands of northern Italy, and arrangements were made with the land company by the minister to establish a colony.

The colonists, with but one or two exceptions, came directly from Italy. They were all mountain farmers from the Province of Torino, North Italy, and understood the care and culture of soil of the character found in the vicinity of Valdese.

The progress made by the colonists has been remarkable. All of the old settlers and all except one or two of the families who have come to the colony within the past two years have paid for their land. They possess substantial buildings, good orchards and vineyards, and many of them have added to their original purchases. They have also made considerable improvements on the methods of agriculture employed by the farmers in this section who work on the same quality of land. The native farmers are all one or two-horse farmers, and practically all land is prepared and cultivated with small onehorse plows. The immigrant farmers cultivate fewer acres, plow more deeply, prepare their soil more thoroughly and diversify their crops to a greater extent.

DVERTISER, SUNDAY MOR

CONVICT LABOR LAW MAY BE SUBJECTED TO A TEST

Conference at Capitol Discusses Sending Case to Federal Supreme Court

Alabama's convict labor contract law may be violative of the Federal constitution. With the approval of the Attorney General of the United States, a test case will be presented to the Supreme Court.

This was the subject of the conference held between representatives of the State and of the Government at th State Capitol Friday. The law in question permits an outsider to confess judgment for the fine of a person convicted, pay the fine, then have the defendant sign a contract to work out the fine.

Alex Armbrecht, United States District Attorney, of Mobile, has attacked the law on this point, declaring it to result in peonage (being practced. Several citizens of Monroe County have been charged with peonage on this ground, and it is in preparation for the prosecution of these cases that a test will be made.

Robert C. Brickell, Attorney General of Alabama; W. L. Martin and Howard Seay, assistants, represented the State in the conference. Mr. Armbrecht represented the Federal government. John McDuffy and F. W. Hare, both attorneys of Monroe County, were in attendance.

REV. WINFIELD S. JONES ACQUITTED OF PEONAGE

Witnesses Were Produced to Show That Negro of Own Will Worked for Minister

Mont-Adv 1-13-11

Before United States Commissioner John A. Elmore, at the preliminary hearing Friday morning, Rev. Winfield S. Jones, of Andalusia, Covington County, brought to Montgomery early this month on a warrant charging that he subjected a negro, Henry Austin, to a state of peonage, was acquitted.

The charge was preferred by the negro against the minister. Rev. Mr. Jones left for his home on the first departing train, southbound, after his acquittal Friday forenoon.

The prosecution, which alleged that Rev. Mr. Jones subjected the black to peonage, introduced witnesses who testified, in effect, that the defendant had made the plaintiff work against the latter's will in payment of $52 advanced to the negro.

Charged Use of Pistol.

The prosecution attempted to prove, further, that the negro, Harry Austin, had been forced by the minister, at the point of a pistol, to accompany Mr. Jones back to Andalusia, when the plaintiff had run away.

The defense, however, succeeded in introducing testimony which refuted, in the opinion of the Commissioner, the evidence of the prosecution. The minister's lawyers proved that Harry Austin had worked for Mr. Jones of his own free will and accord and had not been forced to return from Troy to Andalusia, but, to the contrary, had voluntarily gone back to work for the defendant, even after having left his employ.

Review of Negro

Four Days In The Boll Weevil District of Mississippi

BY H. S. DOSTER, Prattville Ala.

HAVING heard so much about the boll weevil and its destructive work, it has been my desire to visit the boll weevil section, and talk personally to those who are trying to farm in that section. I wished to first go into that section where the boll weevil appeared for the first time during 1911, and then go farther west, where it had been for several years, and see with what success the farmers were fighting it—to ascertain the exact condition of that section, and if cotton could be raised at a profit. I wished to talk personally to those who had furnished the money to raise cotton, those who had furnished the land, and those who had actually done the work in raising the cotton. I wished also to discuss the boll weevil with those progressive and intelligent farmers who lived on their farms and gave their entire time to fighting the pest. It was my desire to visit that section similar in conditions to our secton of the country.

There are many "Doubting Thomases" about the boll weevil in our section of the State. There are many who believe that the pest will play out before it reaches our section; and if it does reach here, will not injure the uplands. There are others who believe that with early planting the crop will be made before the weevil does its damage. For the benefit of the cotton raisers of Alabama, I will give my observations and experience during four days in the heart of the boll weevil district of Mississippi.

Visit to Meridian.

I went to Meridian by way of Selma. The Southern Railroad passes in Perry and Marengo counties through some of the best lands in the world. As I looked out of the car window over the vast fields of dark prairie soil, I felt the time was not far distant when the land owners of that section must completely revolutionize their system of farming, and I hoped that they would not wait for the boll weevil to force them to do so.

In Sumter and Choctaw counties the farmers are dreading the boll weevil, but they know nothing of it. They claim never to have seen it, though the government experts have found some there.

I arrived at Meridian and talked with the first negro, who told me that he had left the boll weevil district on account of the pest. His name was John Thompson. He informed me he farmed on his own land in Pike County, in the southwestern part of the State. He says that in 1910 he planted twelve acres in cotton, and used one hundred pounds of commercial fertilizer per acre. He made that year on twelve acres a bale weighing 450 pounds.

In 1911 he planted twenty-three acres in cotton and used 200 pounds of fertilizer to the acre. He gathered from the twenty-three acres one bale weighing 560 pounds. His land made about one-half of a bale to the acre before the boll weevil came. He says he first saw the boll weevil in his cotton in 1911, about the 15th of May when it first began to bloom, but the great damage was done in July. He has recently secured a job with a railroad for 1912. He said the negroes of that section could not secure any advances during 1911.

It was very amusing to hear him tell how that impudent little pest called the "boll weevil," would even sting the pea blooms and make them drop off.

Hon. H. H. Brooks, who has represented his county in the legislature for several years, told me while at the Great Southern Hotel in Meridian, that he lives at Macon, Noxubee County. He is a large land owner. He said the boll weevil has been seen in his county, but it has done no damage yet. When asked what preparation he was making to fight the boll weevil he replied that he was making no preparation, that he was now old, in bad health, and death would probably reach him before the boll weevil. When the boll weevil reached him in damaging quantities he said he would sell part of his land and quit farming, because he was too old to learn new methods. He intended to leave the boll weevil problem to other generations. He stated, however, that the hope of his section was alfalfa and stock.

Little Damage Done.

The boll weevil was seen around Meridian for the first time during 1911, and it just did a little damage to the top crop. Wishing to get farther into the boll weevil section, I left for Jackson. The country between Meridian and Jackson is hilly and broken in some sections, and low and level in other places. I watched the many cotton fields between Meridian and Jackson for the signs of life and activity on the farms. The smoke from the many negro cabins as it floated upward towards a wintry sky, indicated that the negro is still living in that section. I could see many acres in cotton along the railroad, until darkness blotted out the view. I met on the train Dr. B. L. Sully, a prominent physician of Jackson. He told me he had a negro tenant who planted ten acres in cotton four miles from Jackson, and at one time had a bright prospect for four bales. He sold the yield of cotton on the ten acres for $19.50. The negro had agreed to pay him $75.00 rent, and that was all he had received. His experience was the same as others.

The boll weevil first made its appearance around Jackson in 1909, but has done its greatest damage in 1911. I met C. H. Alexander, who was a candidate against Vardaman for the United States Senate. This gentleman gave me the names of the leading citizens who could give me valuable information. I next went to the office of W. J. Davis, a cotton broker, and one of the largest land owners of Jackson.

I met there V. T. Davis, junior member of the firm. I asked him with what success he was fighting the boll weevil. In reply he pointed to a picture of his stock farm. "That farm," he said, "was up to a few years ago, a vast cotton field. We are doing well with our herd of Hereford cattle." Mr. Davis does not believe that cotton can be raised successfully in the boll weevil district except in small patches. He contends that the farmers of his section can no longer depend on cotton. He informed me that Hinds County, of which Jackson is the county seat, raised about 22,000 bales this year. The normal crop is 45,000 bales. He believes that the hope of his section is live stock.

Meets the Governor.

I next visited the magnificent new capitol building, and while there met Governor E. F. Noel. The new capitol building is at the north end of Congress Street, while the old capitol building still stands at the east end of Capitol Street, a rather dilapidated reminder of Jackson's past glory. While at the Capitol I saw my first boll weevils. They were shown to me by E. Gunning, the affable and courteous assistant Commissioner of Agriculture. He very kindly gave me some of these beetles to carry home in a bottle, but he assured and reassured me that there was no danger of the resurrection of these pests which had lived for more than a week after being confined in a bottle.

I then called on E. S. Virden and Company, and Thomas Gale and Company, the largest advance merchants of Jackson. W. S. Hamilton, of the former firm, and Thomas Gale, of the latter firm, were very courteous in answering my many questions. Both agreed that the advance business is a custom of the past in their section. The negroes and white people must live at home. They told me that those farmers who had spent money trying to raise cotton since the boll weevil, will not only lose their money, but all their property, if they persist in trying. They stated that they did not advance a dollar for Christmas, and had no applications for money. The negro now lives on $25 advances a year, and not many can get that.

These firms will not advance any of the farmers during 1912. They assured me that so far the effects of the boll weevil had been very disastrous, and many farmers were deeply in debt. They thought at first the boll weevil a "humbug," but they find it a reality.

As I was discussing the boll weevil conditions with Mr. Hamilton, Richard Woods, a negro, said he planted fourteen acres in cotton in 1911, and made two bales. He used one ton of fertilizer. The same land usually made six bales. He came out in debt. He got only $50 advances in 1911. Mr. Hamilton advised planting Kings and Simpkins cotton seed. His opinion was that the boll weevil did very little damage until August in his section, and the early shedding was from other causes. Mr. Gale urged me to advise the farmers of Alabama to begin retrenchment at once, and do no advancing after the appearance of the boll weevil.

Negro Wants Work.

I talked to a negro tenant by the name of F. S. Sheriff, who lives at Terry in Hinds County. He wanted to know at once if I needed any labor in my country, and if I could tell him how to get rid of the boll weevil. He said: "The boll weevil started a little with us in 1909. Hart us some in 1910, but gave us fits in 1911."

"That's right!" exclaimed another negro farmer who lives in the same section. "They sho give us fits this year. We get plenty to eat by raising our corn and meat at home, but we get no money." Sheriff said he made five bales to the plow in 1908, but only made one bale to the plow in 1911. The boll weevil got the rest. He said the boll weevil appeared in his cotton while he was chopping it the second time in May, but did the most damage in July.

I called on W. D. Hannah, of the Hannah Distributing Company. He proved to be an interesting and well-informed talker. He has gathered statistics showing all the cotton received by the wagons for the past three years in towns within eighty miles of Jackson. These figures are accurate and will give our readers some idea of the ravages of the boll weevil. Below will be found these figures:

The year 1911 was the first disastrous year around Jackson and all the people there take a most gloomy view of the future. I was told that the people in the section of Vicksburg were like the people of Jackson, having their first disastrous experience with the boll weevil, so I decided to go next where the boll weevil crossed the Mississippi River. I left Jackson for Natchez.

In Wilkinson and Adams.

It was in Wilkinson and Adams counties where the weevil first made its appearance east of the Mississippi River, about 1906. Natchez is the county seat of Adams County and Wilkinson County is just south of it. In traveling between Jackson and Natchez I did not have to be told about the ravages of the weevil. Everywhere I could see fields of cotton stalks with scarcely a cotton burr on them—mute reminders of the failure of those who persist in trying to raise cotton in the boll weevil district. Some stalks had two or three burrs close to the ground, showing that there was no top or middle crops. However, the cotton acreage of that section was greatly reduced in 1911.

Natchez is a quaint looking, old-fashion Southern town on the Mississippi River. Many of the land owners of Adams County live in Natchez and have in the past lived royally on the incomes from their plantations. They did not believe the boll weevil would ever cross the Mississippi River, and, consequently, were unprepared for its ravages and the disastrous results of 1909. The cotton crop of Adams County before the boll weevil was about 20,000 bales annually. In 1909 it was reduced about 1,200 bales. The cotton raisers and land owners became panic stricken. They lost money heavily that year and many offered to sell their lands to satisfy their creditors. All credit was refused the negroes. The boll weevil at that time had not reached the delta north of Natchz, and many negroes moved to that section. All the farmers of Adams County now agree that they made a mistake in foreclosing their negro tenants and forcing them to leave. Circular letters were sent out from the Delta north of Natchez showing reasons why the boll weevil would never enter that section. Negroes went there in train loads but since the boll weevil reached there also they are returning to Adams County.

I called on C. R. Byrnes, Vice-President of the Bank of Commerce, and a large land owner. Mr. Byrnes gives his personal attention to his farm and is one who did not become panic-stricken. He kept his negro labor on his farm. "The boll weevil," said Mr. Byrnes, "first made its appearance on my farms in 1908, so far as I knew. Before that time I usually made 100 bales on 200 acres with no fertilizer. I made eighty bales in 1908. I cut my acreage about 15 per cent in 1909 and made fifteen bales. That was the disastrous year in Adams County and I lost money. We had many accounts in the bank unpaid and the farmers were very gloomy.

Planted Few Acres.

"In 1910 I only planted eighty acres in cotton and made fifteen bales. In 1911 I planted about five acres to the plow—eighty acres in all—and made thirty bales. I expect to plant more cotton in 1912 and make the same increase. I have all the time raised all of my meat, corn and other supplies on my farms. It is a mistake to try to make cotton unless you make all of your supplies on the farm. I got a good profit in 1911 from my farm, to which I have referred. Here are the figures:

30 bales of cotton	$1,800.00
600 bushels of Irish potatoes	464.00
Sold hogs	300.00
Sold pecans	150.00
Sold peas	500.00
	$2,814.00
Expenses	$1,000.00
Profit	$1,814.00

"This is as well as I did before the boll weevil. The deposits of our bank, November 6, 1911, amounted to $251,364.10 against $168,225.33 on the same

date in 1910, an increase of $83,138.77, or 50 per cent. Bills payable on November 16, 1911, were only $15,000 against $52,000 a year ago, or a reduction of more than 70 per cent."

Mr. Byrnes said the lands of his section are as high in price as before the boll weevil. He contends that it is a mistake to get rid of the labor, but they must make their own living without any advances.

I talked to James G. Fleming, another large land owner. He farms along the Mississippi River. In 1907 he made 1,400 bales of cotton. In 1908 he made only 213 bales of cotton. The first year the boll weevil came on his farm about September 1 and in the second year came in July and did great damage. He tried arsenate of lead, but did not kill the weevils. He thinks cotton can be made profitable in his section during a dry summer, but it is too uncertain to advance on. He made in 1911 about 250 pounds of lint cotton to the acre.

I next talked to S. R. Rumble, of the firm of Rumble and Wensel Company. They are the largest cotton factors and advance merchants of Natchez and handle more than one-half of the cotton of that section. Mr. Rumble said that Adams County raised more than one-half of the cotton of that section. Mr. Rumble said that Adams County raised about 3,000 bales in 1911—an increase of about 1,000 bales over 1910. Of course, the cotton acreage of that section has been greatly decreased. Mr. Rumble has reduced his advancing 90 per cent since the appearance of the boll weevil. He rents his lands for one-fourth, as do all, since the boll weevil.

Rich on One Bale.

He referred to a negro tenant of his who made one bale of cotton in 1910. He took $20 for rent and left the negro with $60. The negro said that was more money than he had ever had before. Mr. Rumble said it is astonishing on how little a negro can live when he is forced to. The negro farmer cannot get a dollar credit, and, therefore, owes no money for the past two years. It is, after all, the landlord and advance merchant, who have been badly hurt.

I talked to Charles Evans, an intelligent negro farmer, who lives at Monterey, La. He says the boll weevil has been there for four or five years. He ran four plows in 1911 and raised forty bales of cotton, which is about 75 per cent of a normal crop. The year before the boll weevil came he made sixty bales on the same land. He uses no fertilizer. It was hot and dry in that section this year and all succeeded in making about 70 per cent of a crop in spite of the boll weevil. His crop in 1910 was cut off one-half by the weevil.

C. W. McKeithen, who lives at Woodville, in Wilkinson County, told me he decided to plant six acres in cotton this year as no cotton was planted near him. He hoped the boll weevil would not finish his patch. He used 3,000 pounds of fertilizer on the six acres. His cotton promised to make a bale to the acre, but the weevils appeared in it during the wet weather in June and July and he did not make a pound. He says that the people of Wilkinson County are raising corn, hogs, potatoes and peanuts, but they have decided not to try to raise the latter in the future as there is no money in them at present prices. His experience is that cotton can be raised in the boll weevil district during a dry summer, but it cannot be raised during a wet season, no matter what is done.

The weevil cannot stand the hot dust during the summer. Before the boll weevil came to his section the farmers advanced Christmas money to the negroes, but they do not advance any at all now.

I was told by many of the people that the packing house at Natchez had helped to solve the boll weevil problem and tide the people over. I called on S. H. Lowenburg, the young and enterprising president of that industry. The packing house company was organized in 1910 with a capital stock of $100,000.00 and it began operation about a year ago. Since then the capital stock has been increased to $200,000.00 and the plant enlarged to take care of the increased business. All the money is home capital.

Mr. Lowenburg believes that the only hope of his section in the future is diversified crops with cotton as a surplus crop.

At Packing House.

I visited the packing house plant, located about two miles from Natchez and spent an hour there. Through the kindness of Mr. E. Butterworth, the Superintendent inspected every department. Last week the plant killed and packed 1,500 hogs. The week previous it killed 1,800 hogs. It will kill in all during the year 28,000 hogs in addition to many cattle and sheep. All these hogs, and cattle and sheep are raised in the vicinity of Natchez. The packing house is now paying 5 1-2 per pound, gross for hogs, 3 1-2 for cattle and 4 cents for sheep. During the summer they paid as high as seven cents for hogs.

Mr. Butterworth says the condition of hogs and cattle have greatly improved in that section within the past year. This packing plant at present employs 156 hands and is doing a big business.

Everybody should encourage the establishment of a packing plant in Montgomery in the near future. It will prove a strong factor in solving the boll weevil problem and in tiding over the first disastrous years of the boll weevil by giving us a sure market for meat.

I next went to Brookhaven an enterprising little city of 6,000 population, about sixty miles east of Jackson. Brookhaven is 500 feet above the sea level. I had heard that section had been hit hard by the boll weevil and I found it true. While on the train I met W. A. Strahan of Hazlehurst, Copiah County. He told me the boll weevil first made its appearance in his section in 1909, but did little damage until 1910 when it almost completely destroyed the cotton crop. He persisted in trying to make cotton in 1911 with no better success than in 1910. In 1910 he planted a patch of sixteen acres and made six bales. In 1911 he planted seven acres and made one bale. He usually made 3-4 of a bale to the acre before the boll weevil.

Before the boll weevil reached him he had accumulated about $10,000 of property. Now he is trying to sell his property to satisfy his creditors. He believes that very little cotton will be planted in his section in 1912. He contends that the wet weather which is partly responsible for the short crops of 1909, 1910 and 1911. He said that occasionally can be found a cotton field completely ruined by the boll weevil while just across the road can be found another field with the same culture very little injured. This cannot be accounted for.

Many farmers referred to these conditions in their section. The poorer lands in his section have greatly decreased in value. His advice to farmers is to sell their lands before the boll weevil reaches them.

Big Decrease.

Prof. G. C. Cook told me his father made eight bales of cotton in 1911 on the same lands he made 100 bales before the boll weevil.

At Brookhaven I called on J. W. McGrath, head of the firm of John McGrath and Sons, and president of the Bank of Commerce of Brookhaven. "We have cut off 90 per cent of our advance business since the boll weevil," said Mr. McGrath. He said that 1911 was the 4th year of the boll weevil in his section. Only about four acres to the plow had been planted in cotton in 1911 around Brookheaven. He asked me to go with him to the rear of his large store and there he pointed to many sacks of oats, corn and peanuts, all raised in his section.

"Before the boll weevil," continued Mr. McGrath, "we bought our corn and oats from the West. Now we buy all from our local farmers." He stated that the farmers of that section were disappointed in raising peanuts as they could get only 65 cents per bushel for them when they expected $1.00 per bushel. He contended that the best variety of cotton seed to plant was the Simpkins and Broadwell. He stated that he would not advance more than $25 to the plow to his best tenants during 1912. His conclusion is the only successful way to fight the boll weevil is with corn, cow peas, hogs and cattle.

I next called on A. C. Seavy and Son large advance merchants. "Tell your people in Alabama," said Mr. Seavy, "not to make the same mistake we did. We believed that we could make cotton any kind of a year if we followed the advice of the government experts. We continued to advance and try to make cotton. The result was disastrous and now many of our farmers are hopelessly in debt.

"A. W. Maxwell has many tenants on his farms and wanted to know if they could successfully raise cotton if they followed the advice of the government experts. He planted four acres near Brookhaven and followed the directions of the experts. He had a model crop. The boll weevil got in it during the wet weather and he made about 400 pounds of seed cotton. He should have under ordinary conditions made a bale to the acre. Mr. Maxwell has decided not to try cotton during 1912.

Seeks For Truth.

"You are seeking after the truth, continued Mr. Seavy, "and I will not deceive you. I wish for your people to profit by our experience though it might injure the sale of our lands here. Tell them I say they cannot raise cotton during the first years of the boll weevil. In justice to them please get that into their heads, for if you don't many of them will lose all their property trying to. Tell them to begin now and get their country entirely out of debt before the boll weevil reaches them. Tell them not to be deceived, for the boll weevil will surely sweep over every section of the cotton growing district and then we all will be on the same footing.

"Like other plagues it may play out some day, but they will have disastrous years before that time. Quit trying to raise so much cotton and don't wait for the boll weevil to get them. It will be more disastrous to your people than they realize if they are in debt when the boll weevil reaches them."

W. M. Higdon, an enterprising farmer, who lives fifteen miles from Brookhaven said: "I have tried as hard as any man to raise cotton in the boll weevil district and have failed. In 1910 I made only seven bales on fifty acres. The same land usually made thirty-five bales before the boll weevil came. I had no better success in 1911. I tried all the suggestions of the government experts and failed. I believe that plowing cotton at least once a week kills more boll weevils than picking them up. The hot, dry dust seems to kill them. We farmers have plenty to eat, but no money. I am not in debt."

"The boll weevil in the long run will prove a great blessing to the South," urged Charles Edler, another prominent merchant of Brookhaven. "and I will tell you the reason why. The credit system is the greatest curse of the South. The man who actually makes the produce can never prosper so long as he has to borrow all his money to raise that product and pay a high rate of interest. The boll weevil will revolutionize the credit system of the South. The farmers must live at home and cease to borrow so much money from the merchants and the banks.

"Every important town must have a cold storage plant and some one to market the perishable products of the farm. The farmers must learn how to market their other products of the farm and quit borrowing money to raise cotton. I admit the farmers may suffer some bad years in changing the old conditions, but they will become more prosperous in the end."

Goes To Magnolia.

I next went to Magnolia. I talked to the farmers around Summit, Liberty and other places. It was the same old story of disastrous years in 1909, 1910 and 1911, wherever I went in that section. I left that section and returned home by way of New Orleans. As I looked out at the last field of barren cotton stalks, with the gloomy accounts of disastrous years with the boll weevil still ringing in my ears, I felt that this section is in a most prosperous condition compared to the boll weevil section of Mississippi.

Now for my own conclusion after spending four days in the boll weevil section of our sister state, earnestly seeking the truth and hoping to prove an optimist by bringing a message of cheer to the people of the agricultural section of Alabama who are facing the approaching of the weevil.

The farmers of this section of Alabama for the past ten years have been more progressive than the farmers of South Mississippi. They have spent more money each year in preparing their lands, in cultivating and fertilizing them. They have made more cotton to the acre and have spent twice as much money in doing so. The average amount advanced to each plow in that section of Mississippi was not more than $100, while we have been more extravagant in our advances.

If the boll weevil should destroy our cotton crop here as in Mississippi before we retrenched, it would prove much more disastrous here. If the boll weevil had destroyed our cotton crop in 1911 as it did the crops of many counties of Mississippi in 1909, 1910 and 1911 the counties of Autauga, Montgomery, Lowndes and Dallas would not have made enough cotton to pay their fertilizer bills.

I have been asked if the boll weevil is as destructive as is claimed, why has the South just made the largest crop within its history and with ten years' experience with the boll weevil. I answer because Texas is the driest cotton growing state and has less timber to shelter the weevil. It is, therefore, the best state to fight the weevil. Most of the dry lands of Western Texas have recently been planted in cotton. Many sections of Louisiana last year were dry and hot and unfavorable for the boll weevil. The weevil has not yet appeared in damaging quantities in half of the counties of Mississippi and we know the other cotton states made their largest crops.

We need not deceive ourselves. Unless checked by some unforeseen power the weevil is sure to reach us within the next three years. It is sweeping over the country at the rate of from fifty to 100 miles annually, and it does not diminish in quantities or in its destructive qualities.

Picture Not Overdrawn.

After my visit to the boll weevil section east of the Mississippi river, I am convinced that the pictures of its ravages and destruction have not been overdrawn. To the close student of the financial condition of that section, it can be readily seen that the weevil has caused more consternation and more chaos than Farragut's fleet or Grant's army. It now seems that this little beetle is destined to cause a greater change in the financial system of the cotton growing states than a civil war or legislative acts. It may prove a "blessing in disguise," but after three years of experience that disguise is still impenetrable to the Mississippian.

With the boll weevil we can no longer depend on cotton as the money crop. We must depend on other crops

Arkansas 1912

Geo. W. Smith, a colored farmer of Broadlands, Ill., who died, left an estate valued at $116,000. The children are: Mary E. Smith, A. A. Gaines, Anna S. Neal and John M. Smith, all of Broadlands; Fred M. Smith, of Omaha, Neb.; Salona E. Sexton, St. Louis, Mo.; Charles A. Smith, of Longview. They are all graduates of the University of Illinois.

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES RESEARCH

Review of Negro

	1908 Crop	1909 Crop	1910 Crop	Estimate for 1911 Crop		
Bentonia	2,000	2,840	3,280	1,500		
Bogue Chitto	1,475	1,185	416	90—	100	
Bolton	8,535	7,200	6,925	2,950—	4,000	
Brandon	4,000	4,000	4,000	1,000		
Braxton	2,850	3,200	2,500	500		
Brokhaven	31,812	18,178	8,285	2,200—	3,500	
Canton	22,168	21,387	20,277	16,250		
Clinton	1,500	1,300	1,500	750		
Collins	4,000	2,800	5,000	1,500		
Columbia	10,500	8,338	6,138	1,500—	2,000	
Crystal Springs	5,478	3,516	2,911	750		
D'Lo	850	1,600	1,400	400—	500	
Durant	3,100	2,950	4,100	1,975		
Edwards	12,061	7,059	5,754	4,800		
Flora	7,815	6,591	7,813	4,500—	5,000	
Florence	4,000	3,000	2,600	700		
Forest	10,280	5,500	10,000	8,000		
Georgetown	416	850	1,250	500		
Goodman	4,000	6,000	5,500	1,500		
Grange	260	258	461	200		
Hazlehurst	17,500	9,250	6,300	3,000		
Hopewell			600	125		
Jackson	7,500	6,800	6,200	2,500—	2,800	
Kosciusko	19,892	10,504	16,927	14,000		
Learned	1,496	768	682	700		
Liberty	4,500	2,700	925	350		
Magee	6,500	5,400	6,200	3,500		
Magnolia	7,500	5,200	1,800	800		
Mize	3,341	2,707	2,697	1,020		
Mendenhall	*	410	325	20		
Monticello	1,500	1,300	1,400	150		
Morton	8,542	5,456	6,781	4,000		
Mount Olive	4,198	2,860	3,481	2,000		
Myles	1,100	600	400	200		
McComb	700	700	400	75		
Newhebron	4,500	3,800	3,000	1,000		
Oakley						
Oakvale	800	800	600	200		
Oma	500	500	400	100		
Osyka	9,500	7,195	1,913	959		
Pelahatchie	6,500	4,200	4,650	1,950		
Pickens	4,929	3,875	4,648	3,000		
Pinola	1,400	1,650	1,600	500		
Pocahontas	3,800	2,700	3,250	2,200		
Raymond						
Rockport			225	56		
Seminary	1,500	1,750	2,000	1,100		
Silver Creek	2,500	1,500	1,200	500		
Star	600	800	1,000	125		
Summit	20,598	12,641	7,863	1,200—	1,500	
Taylorsville	3,580	3,212	3,615	1,450—	1,500	
Terry	7,000	5,500	6,000	1,400—	1,500	
Tylertown	5,000	8,000	4,000	1,000		
Utica	8,500	5,000	3,500	2,000		
Valden	3,800	3,800	5,200	3,000		
Vaughan	470	500	1,860	150		
Wesson						
West	4,215	3,264	3,087	2,500		
Total	$14,862	244,936	218,609	117,870—	120,780	

*—No Record.

LETTERS TO EDITOR

Mont Ad - 1-12-12

KEEPING SERVANT LABORERS.

Booker Washington Writes on Methods In Macon County.

Editor The Advertiser:

The problem of how to secure and keep plenty of farm labor is one which I notice is being constantly discussed in Alabama. But the question of farm labor is not confined to Alabama. Throughout this country that is constant complaint among the land owners and farmers to the effect that they cannot secure enough labor.

While there is constant complaint about labor among a certain class of planters, there is another class of planters that has plenty of laborers. In fact, I have noticed in Alabama there are two classes of planters; one class who is all the time seeking after labor, and another class whom the laborers seek. Why is it that some land owners cannot get people to work for them, and why is it that others can?

In trying to answer this question, I would like to say a word through the columns of your paper in regard to a custom and method which seems to be growing among the white planters in Macon county and vicinity in dealing with negro tenants.

I think it is a pretty generally accepted fact that there is opportunity for improvement in the present prevailing methods of handling farm labor and dealing with tenant farmers on the big plantations. The recent census shows that too large a number of negro farmers and laborers are leaving the country districts and going into the towns and it is highly important, not only for the prosperity of agriculture throughout the South and especially for the future welfare of the masses of the negro people that wherever possible, we should take measures to increase the efficiency of farm labor and at the same time make the conditions of life in the country more satisfactory and the farmers more contented. This must be my excuse for calling attention to what seems to me to be the peculiarly happy relations existing between planters and tenants in this county and the methods by which they have been brought about.

Some years ago the Farmers' Institute decided to give a barbecue dinner to the farmers who had attended the meetings of the Institute during the year. The purpose was to make of this day at the Institute a sort of harvest home festival.

On this occasion, in addition to the barbecue which was served in a pine grove on the school grounds adjoining the Agricultural Building, there were formal exercises in the afternoon in the Agricultural Building. There were addresses by teachers, followed by short reports and discussions by farmers at the condition and progress in their particular sections of the county. More interesting than these were the reports of the farmers improvement clubs and the boys' corn clubs that have been organized by the demonstration agents throughout the county.

This first gathering was so successful that it was repeated the next year and thus the custom has grown up of having a barbecue each year. It was found that these gatherings were not only preasant and profitable but they added to the interest of rural life and made the country less like a temporary abiding place and more like home.

What I want especially to call attention to, however, is the fact that what the teachers at Tuskegee have been trying to do for the negro farmers who attend the agricultural institutes a number of our local white planters are doing in another, and, perhaps a better way, for their tenants.

McLeod's Barbecue.

For examply what is known as McLeod's Barbecue, given to the tenants on the large plantation of Mr. G. W. McLeod, located at Hannon's station, between Macon and Bullock counties, has already become famous among the farmers in our part of the county. The larger part of this plantation of 1,800 acres is located in Macon county, but it extends over the line a half mile into Bullock county. At Hannon's station, which is about the center of the plantation, there is a colored settlement of about seventy-five or eighty families. This community has a good schoolhouse with attendance of 110 pupils. The building alone cost, I understand, about $800 and last year the people raised $127 to put in regular factory made seats and desks.

For several years Mr. McLeod has followed the plan of giving an annual barbecue dinner to the tenants and making that dinner the occasion for distributing prizes among those who had made the most progress during the year, and for giving them good wholesome advice that would help them and encourage them to do better in the future.

This year Mr. McLeod celebrated the close of the farming season by distributing $200 in prizes among his tenants. A number of teachers from the Tuskegee Agricultural School were invited to inspect the homes and the general conditions and act as committee to assist in judging the prizes. The committee spent two days on the place visiting and inspecting the farms and homes of forty-one tenants.

Prizes were given to those who showed the most progress in the preparation and cultivation of the crops; to those whose stock showed the most intelligent care and treatment; to those who kept the best homes. Then there were several prizes to certain individuals for special interest in the care of stock; for making good upon a steer farm; and for making a success at rough land farming. The prizes ranged all the way from $12 to $25 and any man or woman guilty of drunkardness, or of abusing his or her family was debarred from the contest.

The program this year was a long one. There was first an evening meeting at the schoolhouse on the day of the arrival of the committee. At this meeting there were reports on the Farmers' Improvement Club of Hannon interspersed with singing of good old fashioned plantation melodies. Then there was a debate in which all the farmers and their wives took part. The subject was: "Resolved That Woman is of More Service Upon the Farm Than a Man." The women won, "not because," as one man explained it to me, "they were really of more use than the man but because they were better in an argument."

Meanwhile the animals had been slaughtered for the barbecue and while a crowd of laughing, happy people, several hundred in number, were gathered around the pit where two whole beeves, two hogs and four young goats were already sizzling over the glowing coals, they were entertained with coffee and buttered biscuits, spiced with much good humor and lively conversations.

The next day a crowd of at least a thousand people gathered to share in the barbecue and see the prizes distributed. There were speches by several white planters and business men and then by several colored farmers and finally by the committee of teachers from Tuskegee. The principal speech of the day was made by Senator Merritt of Tuskegee. He was followed by Mr. W. W. Campbell and Mr. M. S. Russell of the same place and Mr. S. Russell of Hartsboro. Then the prizes were awarded.

I am going to take the liberty of inserting here the letter which Mr. McLeod addressed to the judges. I do so because it conveys a good deal better than I can, the plan and spirit in which Mr. McLeod has conducted his plantation, and at the same time explains the success with which his efforts have met. The letter follows:

To the Judges:

I am glad to be able to report that there has been a decided improvement in conditions over 1910, as seen by me and reported by Mr. Colvard, in efforts on the farm and in the care of work stock, with the exception of three tenants.

There has been general improvement in conduct, no broils, all peaceable amongst themselves, and all seem to have regard for each other, and are ready and willing to receive advice from Mr. Colvard.

There is one case especially. This tenant had gone to the bad from the use of whiskey, but is now making a man of himself and is treating his family as a husband and father should.

I am sorry to report there is one who has not fully reformed, but I am sure that he will profit by the experience of others and during the year 1912 will stand in line with others who are trying to live sober and correct

Of the women, they are keeping cleaner houses and taking better care of the children, which is a decided advance with them.

To improve the conditions of the black man along the lines I have mentioned, I have given prizes during the last two years, and feel sure it has been worth while to them and paid me pecuniarily; besides it is quite a satisfaction to see them advance in all of their interests.

(Signed J. W. McLeod.

I want to add that Mr. McLeod is not the only planter in our county who is trying to improve the efficiency of his labor by stimulating the ambition of his tenants, trying to improve their moral character and making them feel at home on his plantation. I quote from a recent report made by C. W. Greene, one of our farm managers, who was One of the Judges at the McLeod Barbecue this year and is familiar with conditions in the county:

Treating Tenants Well.

"It is surprising how many of the white planters in various parts of the county are doing the same thing—that is, giving annual barbecues to their tenants and croppers.

"These planters go a step farther. They begin at the opening of the crop season, and tell their tenants that they will give cash prizes to those who have the best matured crop by a certain date. The prizes range from $1 to $5 and are awarded by a disinterested committee of five.

"In addition, in order to help the tenants' families, the woman is given a prize who keeps the neatest house the best cared for children, sees that they attend school most regularly and sets the best example in the matter of morals.

"It is surprising how much better the crops were developed and cared for under this system than crops on similar land in the same community not under such conditions. We find people are very anxious to work under landlords who take such interest in their welfare.

"The committee which visited Mr. McLeod's plantation noted with satisfaction the large number of houses far back on the plantations which were neat, clean and well cared for. One woman, Ida Collier, had a house so clean inside and outside and so attractive that people were almost ashamed to go into the house right off the farm. The tone and sentiment of such tenants seemed to be above the average of tenants.

"I think this new phase in farm life is going far toward revolutionizing the old slipshod methods that have been practiced so long in the South, and is going to cause the farmer, no matter how far from the city he may live, to feel that he has as much right to be somebody as anyone else."

I only wish to add that I believe that what is being done in Macon county can be perhaps is being done elsewhere. In any case I think it is good to have the facts known.

Booker T. Washington.

Tuskegee, Ala., Jan. 10, 1912.

NESS MEN WANT MORE WHITE FARMERS IN DIXIE

Farm Development Company is to Be Organized

MEETING HELD TUESDAY

Plans for Getting Big Tracts Divided Are Thoroughly Discussed

A farm development company will be organized by the Business Men's League to deal in small tracts of from twenty to eighty acres, for sale to small white farmers, whom it is desired to bring into this section from the west and other parts of the country. J. S. Pinckard, chairman of the farm development committee, was authorized at a meeting of the body, Tuesday afternoon, to work out some plan, which will be submitted to a meeting of the league next Tuesday night. Fifteen members of the committee and the heads of the five main departments, as well as President Meyer and Secretary Kennedy, were present. All were enthusiastically in favor of the plan.

The committee agreed as a whole that something must be done to induce the white farmer to move to this county from other states.

B. L. Moss, government farm demonstration agent, was present and he stated that the day was approaching, when diversified farming on small tracts would mean the salvation of this section. He said that within two years, the boll weevil would be in Montgomery county and cause bad conditions, unless the planters devoted their time to the cultivation of crops other than cotton.

Large Holders Obstruct.

President Meyer stated that the large landowner was daily becoming more of an obstructionist and that it was time to convince him that he should cut his farm up into smaller tracts and bring other planters into his vicinity.

A strong argument was advanced by M. C. Scott who stated that the city people should do all in their power to bring the small white farmer here. He stated that many had come but that they had left discouraged, owing to the fact that they had been made to feel they were not classed above the negro. This declared Mr. Scott was something that should be avoided as it was best that the negro should be supplanted by the white farmer.

Two methods of organizing the development company were advanced by the members. One of these was, it as Montgomery County was one filled with large farmers, greater success could be secured by making a concerted effort to get the property owners having tracts to sell, to list them with the Business Men's League for a certain period. Objection was raised to this plan on the ground that it would turn the commercial organization into a land corporation which is not desirable.

The other plan suggested was that a land development company be organized to deal in tracts. This company would be a stock corporation and not a part of the league's work. It was pointed out that the latter plan would be a splendid investment, and a number of the members signing signified their willingness to subscribe large amounts at once. One member stated that he was willing to invest as much as $25,000 as soon as stock was opened for sale.

Finally the meeting voted to have a plan drawn up by J. S. Pinckard for the consideration of the league as a whole at the coming meeting.

BIG FIGHT ON PEONAGE SYSTEM

Administration is Trying to Stamp Out Involuntary Slavery

WICKERSHAM ACTIVE

Attorney General Has Given Much Attention to Prosecution of Peonage in Southern States

RECOMMENDATIONS MADE

In 1911 Report Attorney General Recommends that Statutes of United Staees Be Amended Regarding Peonage.

Special to THE NEW YORK AGE. 2-29-12

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 27.—The record of the Taft administration in the prosecution of the peonage system in the South has been called to public attention by the annual report of the Attorney General, recently issued. The report shows that Attorney General Wickersham has made a determined and quite successful effort to stamp out a pernicious system in certain Southern States that in effect has been a virtual annulment of the Thirteenth Amendment abolishing slavery. The report shows conclusively that the Attorney General has been just as active in the prosecution of peonage as he has been in his prosecution of the trusts, and his efforts in the first case directly and deeply concerns the Negro, for the Negro has been the victim of involuntary slavery under the peonage system.

The decision of the Supreme Court in the Alonzo Bailey case, renderel last term by Mr. Justice Hughes, holding unconstitutional the State law of Alabama under which Bailey was held as a peon, in which Attorney General Wickersham and Assistant Attorney General Harr appeared as amicus curiæ, was a distinct triumph for the cause of freedom. While it was not the official duty of the Attorney General to appear in this case, his act was wholly voluntary in the interest of the enforcement of the Thirteenth Amendment and the peonage statutes.

Wickersham Makes Report.

This report of the Attorney General for 1911, gives two pages to the subject of the enforcement of the peonage statutes. The report says:

> **The vigorous enforcement of the statutes against peonage, conducted by the department in the last few years, it is believed has done much toward stamping out that form of involuntary servitude in many districts, but in some of the southern states this practice appears to be still quite extensively carried on. Prosecutions under the peonage statutes have been instituted in nearly all the southern states, and in a few states not in the South.**

The report also recommends that

> **The statutes of the United States upon the subject of peonage and slavery should be amended so as to render them more effective for the prosecution of persons against slavery and involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime.**

A large field is open for workers of the race to secure from Congress laws necessary to render more effective the Thirteenth Amendment, and thus make more secure the lives and liberty of Negroes in the South.

The records will show that prosecutios of persons for violating the peonage statutes have been instituted in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Tennessee, Texas and other states. Convictions have resulted in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia, with prosecutons still pending in Kentucky, Louisiana and Texas. In a number of cases prison sentences have been imposed against men of wealth and standing in addition to being sentenced to pay heavy fines. The local United States Attorneys have had the assistance of special agents of the Department of Justice and the assistance of special attorneys in the prosecution of these cases.

Federal Judges, notably Judge Emory Speer of Georgia, and Judge Thomas Jones of Alabama, have been most outspoken and courageous in their charges to the grand juries considering these cases, in their respective districts. A few more years of this kind of campaign, with the assistance of Congress, ought to result in stamping out peonage and involuntary servitude of all kinds.

PROBE ALL DEPARTMENTS

Inspectors for Uncle Sam Are Making a Thorough Investigation

Special to The Advertiser.

ANNISTON, ALA., Nov 22.—The investigation into the affairs of the Anniston postoffice is still under way in an endeavor to ascertain the exact shortage of Major D. Houston Smith, assistant postmaster, who is charged with having embezzled $9,652 of the postoffice money order funds over which he had charge.

Major Smith was bonded in the sum of $8,000 and confessed to a shortage of approximately $6,000. It is said he tried to keep within his bond and in his statement in court Wednesday he said that he did not believe his shortage would be as large as was intimated by the grand jury.

Major Smith was confined in the Federal prison at Atlanta Wednesday evening. He will be No. 4,282 in the penitentiary, according to the officers and will have to serve about three years, deductions being made from the five-year sentence on account of good behavior.

Major Smith was a great baseball and football enthusiast and one of the last things he did before leaving for Atlanta was to give a friend money enough for a year's subscription to two daily papers. "I want to keep up with the dope," he said, "and hope to see Anniston at the top of the Southeastern League again next summer." He was one of the organizers of that association.

No One Overlooked.

Owing to the fact that there has been so much trouble in the Anniston postoffice, beginning with the alleged misappropriation of funds by Postmaster Lee in 1898, the investigation which is now under way is being made thorough. Every department of the service here is being checked up. Wednesday afternoon the station at Oxford underwent investigation and in turn all the sub-stations in the city have been probed, in addition to the various departments in the main office.

How such a big shortage could be possible has caused considerable speculation here, and insistent demands are being made on the inspectors to thoroughly investigate so as to prevent another such occurrence.

PEONAGE IN THE SOUTH

Taft Administration Doing Everything to Stamp Out Form of Involuntary Slavery in the South.

1-4-11

Special to THE NEW YORK AGE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 1.—The vigorous enforcement of the statutes against peonage in the South, conducted under the Taft administration during the past year, has done much toward stamping out that form of involuntary slavery in many districts in the South. It is well-known that it is the Negro who has been made, and is yet made a peon in some of the Southern States. The Taft administration has instituted prosecutions under the peonage statutes in nearly all the Southern States.

Convictions, owing to local prejudices, have been difficult to secure, but they have been obtained in many of the States. Even where convictions have not been secured, it is thought that the acts of cruelty and oppression, which frequently make these peonage cases, disclosed in the course of the trials, have had the effect of turning sentiment of the people against the methods which give rise to prosecutions for involuntary servitude. The Department of Justice here declares that the chief support of peonage lies in the peculiar system of laws prevailing in some of the Southern States intended to compel personal service on the part of laborers.

The Supreme Court of the United States, in Bailey vs. The State of Alabama, rendered a decision which goes far toward holding unconstitutional a statute designed, under the guise of punishing persons who obtain money under false pretenses, to enforce a condition of involuntary servitude, by declaring a provision thereof which made a breach of contract prima facie evidence of an intent to defraud, to be in violation of the thirteenth amendment. Attorney General Wickersham has recommended that the statutes of the United States upon the subject of peonage and slavery should be amended so as to render them more effective for the protection of persons against slavery and involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime.

The peonage system in the South affects the Negro. In fact the system is maintained to exact unrequited labor from Negroes, and knowing this it is the intention of the Taft administration to continue prosecutions until the system is abandoned.

WHY THE WHITE COUNTIES PROSPER

Mont 12—12-5-11

Mr. Ed. Pinckard, a well known banker and business man of Clanton, was in Montgomery Monday. Chilton County, he says, is keeping up the remarkable pace of commercial prosperity which it set ten years ago.

"These white counties are the counties which are going forward commercially and industrially," said Mr. Pinckard. "In these counties the farming is exclusively in the hands of the white men. They not only know how to farm, but they do it with their own hands. It would do some of the Black Belt farmers good to see a few of the farms in Chilton County, where they used to think the land was so poor you could not raise a disturbance on it. I undertake to say that acre for acre of the cultivated land in Chilton will double the crops of the Black Belt, where the land is naturally richer. The difference is that white men cultivate the acres in one section and negroes cultivate the land in another."

U. S. Census
age 2-12-12

A SUCCESSFUL FARMER.

In this week's issue of THE AGE we produce from the Reading (Pa.) *Eagle* a highly interesting article showing what one of Gen. Armstrong's Hampton graduates, born in South Carolina, has accomplished in the development of a small farm in a Northern state. What Mr. Thomas B. Patterson has done as a small farmer in a Northern state and what he has to say about farming and farm methods are not only of great moment and interest to the Negro farmers of New England, Middle and Western states, but to those of the Southern states as well. All things being equal, what one man has accomplished another man can accomplish.

The beacon lights in the history of mankind are the men and women who have made the most of the ordinary opportunities of their times, of whatever [illegible] others were not wise enough [illegible] or conservative to understand. [illegible] lies at every man's [illegible] does not recognize the most of it when

We have spent many days with Mr. Patterson on his Deep Creek farm. To be a model farmer among white farmers is one thing; to be a leading spirit in educational, church and Grange work is another; to be a black man of light and leading among white men in both things, as Mr. Patterson is, is not only creditable to the man but an inspiration to his race.

But Mr. Patterson is getting along in years and the rough work of the mountain farm is beginning to tell upon him; we therefore think that he has done wisely to dispose of his farm and to accept the position of Farm Director at the Dowingtown Industrial and Agricultural School, near Philadelphia. It should be good for him and for the school.

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